

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Certificate of Ann M. Dickson)	
)	
Certificate # 115812)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on Tuesday, December 7, 2004. On October 14, 2004, the Office of Teacher Education and Certification sent Ann M. Dickson a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Dickson received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Dickson did request a hearing, which was scheduled before a hearing officer on December 7, 2004. On November 16, 2004, Ms. Dickson wrote the Office of General Counsel and asked that her hearing be cancelled. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Dickson's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Dickson holds a valid certificate, and has over eleven years teaching experience. Ms. Dickson was hired as a special education teacher at Rains Centenary Elementary School in Marion School District Seven (District). Ms. Dickson requested on two occasions to be released from her contract, once on August 26, 2004, and again on September 7, 2004. On both occasions the District asked Ms. Dickson to continue her duties. On September 22, 2004, Ms. Dickson gave written notice of her resignation. Ms. Dickson claimed that her position was an "impossible job that I could not do in a professional and developmentally appropriate manner." On October 5, 2004, the District Board of

Trustees voted to request suspension of Ms. Dickson's certificate as a result of her breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Dickson breached her contract with the Marion School District Seven, warranting the suspension of Ms. Dickson's certificate # 115812 for a period of one year, from December 7, 2004, through December 8, 2005. Should Ms. Dickson wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary Jones

Dr. Mary Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

December 7, 2004